

Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

Vol. 8 No. 2

Friday, February 14, 2014

The Conservation Pledge

I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.

In This Lifetime

"The Imagination is Stronger Than Will Power"

--Albert Einstein

What's the one thought you need to ask yourself just now, that will give you hope while reading this newsletter. What if you could keep coming back to the place of pretend. Make believe environmental integrity and human love for the next seven generations of children. Imagine all souls, on all levels, in all realms are awakening. Can we play that it is beautiful to walk the planet as if every good thing will come into being. *Arise, shine your Light.*

San Jose, CALIFORNIA

A 2007 National Academy of Sciences report was declassified in 2012, about blackouts. The report is entitled, *"Terrorism and the Electric Power Delivery System"*. The power grid is seemingly vulnerable because many substations are in rural areas, and no government agency is accountable for safeguarding the power grid, so power companies fear legal liability because even a short-term outage could crash the internet, halt commerce, and cause hospitals to run out of power from generators.

Therefore Mr. Jon Wellinghoff, head of the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION infers surveillance drones could be deployed 24/7 around sensitive facilities, and he further insinuates that the need for cheap, reliable drones is reason the FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION should legalize commercial uses of drones, which would accelerate their development.

The very incident that hyped up the accelerated push for drone surveillance was a nighttime attack last April that destroyed a power substation in San Jose, CALIFORNIA.

Mr. Wellinghoff visited the scene with PENTAGON experts who train NAVY SEALS in infrastructure destruction. The PENTAGON experts concluded professionals damaged the grid, and CIA Director, Jim Woolsey, rejoined that three or four men in a disciplined military fashion made a systematic attempt to take down the electric grid. Apparently the Silicon Valley attackers understood the facility and how to destroy it, by breaking into an underground vault and cutting fiber-optic cables. They then fired AK-47's at the substation for almost 20 minutes to wreck 17 of 23 transformers. News of the incident was suppressed with Pacific Gas & Electric Company blaming vandalism. The FBI has no suspects.

(Source: February 10, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, *"The Power Grid: Our Archilles' Heel"* by L. Gordon Crovitz)

.....

February 16, 2014

Page 2

The Chosen Ones

CONGRESS gave the mandate to the FAA to integrate civilian use of drones into the sky by 2015.

The FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) chose ALASKA, HAWAII, and OREGON to operate one of only six test sites in AMERICA for unmanned aircraft systems for civilian use. The *Pan-Pacific Test Site* will entail *Department of Defense* collaboration at the *University of Alaska*, *Oregon State University*, and in *HAWAII* since the three states offer agricultural areas, high dessert, islands, forests, mountains, ocean, rivers, tundra, valleys, and volcanoes in which to test various types of new systems devices.

Oregon State University (OSU) is one of only two universities in AMERICA designated a land-, sea-, space-, and sun-grant institution. In the near future there will be crawling, flying, swimming, and walking devices used routinely to perform tasks in agriculture, environmental monitoring, fire fighting, search and rescue, etc. Unmanned aerial systems in civilian use are expected to become a multi-billion dollar INDUSTRY.

The other five sites are in NEVADA, NEW YORK, NORTH DAKOTA, TEXAS, and VIRGINIA.

While ALASKA, HAWAII, and OREGON have been selected along with NEVADA, NEW YORK, NORTH DAKOTA, TEXAS, and VIRGINIA as the "chosen ones", apparently many other states in the Union are passing legislation banning domestic drone use. The other *United States of America* are a republic wanting to keep the *First* and *Fourth Amendments* from being overstepped by the "Reauthorization Act". Did you read *Naomi Wolf's* article that appeared in the December 2012, *The Guardian*, about the "Reauthorization Act" hype.

If so, then you might notice your own gut feelings about CONGRESS meshing commercial corporate interests, local police enforcement, and the military. Apparently 110 military sites for drone activity are being built in 39 states to cover all of AMERICA's skies with tens of thousands of drones into the air engaging in surveillance. A person might wonder if weaponized drones are over the horizon. *Wolf* speculates that by passing the "Reauthorization Act" CONGRESS may have disempowered the *Posse Comitatus* act passed in the 19th century, which forbids a military role in law enforcement among Americans. The question on people minds is whether the "Reauthorization Act" has devitalizing vocabulary that would make U.S. citizens unequal against a militarized federal government oligarchy.

(Sources: January 16, 2014, OREGON LEGAL JOURNAL, "*Pan-Pacific Test Site*" to aid growth of unmanned aerial systems, by Oregon State University Fall/Winter 2013, PEACE & FREEDOM, "*The Coming Drone Attack on America*", by Naomi Wolf; mvc@igc.org; joanecklein@comcast.net)

The Bioenergy Initiative

Tree varieties may soon be no longer extant in *Today's World*.

GREENWOOD RESOURCES is based in *Portland*, OREGON, and is the major grower of cottonwoods in the PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

Since it is too costly and time-consuming for private industry to identify the one most profitable monoculture tree to develop, the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) granted \$1 million to the OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY research team led by *Steve Strauss*, Professor of FOREST BIOTECHNOLOGY, to carry out research in collaboration with the commercial interests of GREENWOOD RESOURCES.

The grant is part of an \$8 million national BIOENERGY INITIATIVE by the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY and the USDA.

Other collaborators are *Todd Rosenstiel* of PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY and *Stephen DiFazio* of WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY.

The USDA grant is for the exploitation of the molecular genetics of all hybrid fast-growing cottonwood tree species grown in the PACIFIC NORTHWEST, so that the most profitable cottonwood tree species for the BIOENERGY INDUSTRY will be selected for speeding tree grow faster than Mother Nature. Monoculture trees bid farewell to woodland biodiversity.

(Source: January 16, 2014, OREGON LEGAL JOURNAL, "USDA grant boosts OSU tree research" Press release)

NORWAY's Global Seed Vault

The *Svalbard Global Seed Vault's* architect is *Carey Fowler*. The *Svalbard* is located outside the village of *Longyearbyen*, NORWAY. There are 1,750 other seed banks in the world that store agricultural biodiversity. The *Svalbard* opened in 2008 and it is nicknamed the *Doomsday Vault* because of its serious storage of 750,000 seed samples. In fact the GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST claims two-thirds of the world's stored crop biodiversity samples are contained at *Svalbard*, including the seeds of many crops' wild ancestors.

You might want to let feeling comforted give rise to the type of love that is necessary to heal the planet. There were over 100,000 varieties of rice in INDIA, 100 years prior to the *Green Revolution* of the 1970's and 1980's. Those crop varieties are no longer extant now, because of hybridization. Farmers discarded their local seeds that had been time tested over the centuries and millennia. The UNITED NATIONS *Food and Agriculture Organisation* estimates that 75% of crop biodiversity has been lost from the world because farmers stopped saving their local seeds. The lost seeds contained genetic material that sustains humanity.

Agriculture became even more dysfunctional in the 1990's when laboratory-made *Genetically Modified Organisms* were *Genetically Engineered* and patented. GMO/GE seed is often promoted as a way to feed the world. But this is short of a confidence trick. Far from needing just a few patented foods, there are urgent reasons why Man needs to ban them altogether.

By 2012 the head of *Crop Genetics Research* at DUPONT PIONEER HI-BRED, *John Soper*, warned the world that if genetic diversity is ignored while developing GMO/GE products, Man risks a disease or pest emergence that will wipe out GMO/GE crops. For instance, natural wild AMERICAN sunflowers were naturally resistant to broomrape, whereas DUPONT PIONEER HI-BRED sunflowers succumbed to parasitic blight.

So then, if biotechnology must continually update their pricey patented genetic stock, often from obscure sources of *local* varieties of wild maize and soya bean seed stock, then why use it.

Grandmothers, and others, as temperatures rise, you could enjoy purchasing time-tested heirloom seeds. Now is the time to buy the seeds you'll be planting in May for your organic home garden. Perhaps you can get some native plant seeds at the local seed swap in your area from local and organic farmers who still practice the sacred art and science of seed saving.

(Source: March 10, 2012, THE ECONOMIST, "Agricultural Biodiversity Banking Against Doomsday")

A Must See YOU TUBE Video

<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v= QfCiLOUudY>

February 16, 2014

Page 4

The Parent Company of Monsanto

PFIZER INCORPORATED, markets Big Pharmacia cancer drugs, inflammatory disease drugs, pain pills, and vaccines. LYRICA pain pills are PFIZER's biggest-selling drug. LYRICA sales rose to 1.26 billion.

Last year's fourth quarter sales of children's PREVNAR pneumonia vaccine were \$1.1 billion. Now PFIZER wants to double its PREVNAR profits. For another \$1 billion in revenue, PFIZER wants to have PREVNAR vaccine's use in the elderly added to the federal government's list of recommended vaccinations, for another \$1 billion in revenue.

PFIZER reported \$51.58 billion in revenue for last year. If you want proof that it's all about the money, Pfizer wants to sell off their older PFIZER products with expiring patents protection this year and next. PFIZER has already parted ways with their former animal-health and nutrition business.

(Source: January 29, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Pfizer Shifts Focus Toward New Drugs; Earnings Drop 59%" by Jonathan Rockoff and Tess Stynes)

Paris, FRANCE, 2015

The next *Climate Change* talks resume in Paris, FRANCE, in 2015, because new global goals need to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

The EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) President Barroso implicates developed nations for backtracking. The EC wants nuclear power to go forward. BRITAIN and POLAND want fracking, even though FRANCE has a fracking moratorium. But clean energy sources such as solar and wind may comprise 27% of the EC's overall energy use by 2030. The new EC proposals need backing by the EUROPEAN UNION (EU) 28-member states and the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

Maybe it is time to point out that INDUSTRY is a false messiah. Weather patterns in NORTH AMERICA and in the PACIFIC are affected by the manufacturing industry in CHINA. If you are ready to face the facts, Los Angeles, CALIFORNIA, receives an extra day of smog every year, from factories in CHINA. A new study published by the U.S. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, from atmospheric scientist Renyi Zhang of TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY, concludes that air pollution originating from ASIA alters cloud formation and precipitation patterns. ASIA's Industrialization is negatively impacting the upper atmosphere, causing cyclones and storms to become stronger.

(Sources: January 23, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Europe Forges Ahead with Climate Plan" by Vanessa Mock, from Brussels, GERMANY; January 24, 2014, THE OREGONIAN, "Global Smog Threat", by Renyi Zang)

Guys Not Ready

In an area known as the "chemical Valley", officials were unprepared for the chemical disaster that happened. U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin has opened criminal investigation of FREEDOM INDUSTRIES INCORPORATED's chemical spill of METHYLCYCLOHEXANE METHANOL (MCHM) at the Etowah River Terminal, that poisoned the Elk River which feeds the Ohio River.

Representatives Paul Tonko (D., NY) and Henry Waxman (D., CA) of the HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE are calling a hearing to examine why officials knew so little about MCHM toxicity. It is one of 60,000 chemicals grandfathered in under the 1976 TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT, without testing requirements. These chemicals are neither closely tracked by the federal government, nor by local or state monitoring. A WEST VIRGINIA state regulator admitted the site was left unvisited by any environmental inspector since 1991. If you are taking measure, such IS the mayhem on EARTH at this time called NOW. You first have to establish where NOW is.

Charleston, the capitol city of WEST VIRGINIA's water scare was adverse for five-days. A total of nine counties downstream in WEST VIRGINIA, OHIO and KENTUCKY, were also negatively affected by the false god of INDUSTRY. So now the ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND wants tougher regulations. This really is a spiritual matter because of false value systems extant on the planet.

February 16, 2014

Page 5

Lisa Evans, Chief Administrative Counsel of EARTHJUSTICE, asserts that the FREEDOM INDUSTRIES is responsible to prevent its hazardous chemicals from entering the public water supply, but it is government's role to establish rules that greatly reduce the likelihood of such devastating spills.

(Sources: January 13, 2014, "Initial tests promising for tainted W. Va. Water" by Mitch Weiss and Brendan Farrington, The Associated Press; January 14, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Chemical Spill Floats West" by Jennifer Levitz, Cameron McWhirter, and Valerie Bauerlein, Alexandra Berzon and Kris Maher, "Chemical-Spill Site Avoided Broad Regulatory Scrutiny" by Alexandra Berzon and Kris Maher, "Situation Improving But Still No Water to Drink" by Eric Morath and Jennifer Levitz, and "Site of Chemical Spill Operated Outside Regulatory Control" by Eric Morath, Rebecca Ballhaus, Kris Hudson, and Cameron McWhirter)

AMERICA the Polluted

In the wake of last month's shocking chemical spill in *Charleston*, WEST VIRGINIA, isn't it odd that WEST VIRGINIA's *Attorney General*, Patrick Morrisey, wants to undermine water safety in neighboring states. Safeguarding the water supply should be a higher priority, isn't that right Mr. Morrisey. Has he no shame.

How brazen of the AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION to bring a lawsuit to toss out the EPA--led clean up the *Chesapeake Bay*. It is crazy-making that the FARM BUREAU persuaded the Attorneys General of ALABAMA, SOUTH CAROLINA, TEXAS, and the rest to fight against the nation's broad public interest.

The U.S. DISTRICT COURT Judge Sylvia Rambo ruled against the FARM BUREAU last fall when it tried to wiggle around the federal *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) regulatory authority. The FARM BUREAU's appeal is likely to lose again because passage of a nearly \$1 trillion farm bill that provides billions for farming, includes \$250 million specifically earmarked for those farmers who are trying to meet the nitrogen, phosphorus, manure, sediments, and other toxic runoff obligations imposed by the *Chesapeake Bay's* clean-up timed line.

It is the EPA's federal job to make sure the *Chesapeake Bay* watershed's six states and the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA are doing their fair share to achieve specific water quality goals. The startle effect of 21 pro-pollution state *Attorneys Generals* attacking the EPA's efforts IS extremely alarming because it is imperative to AMERICA's environmental integrity for the EPA to have the ability to enforce the CLEAN WATER ACT.

The *Chesapeake Bay* cleanup has cost billions of dollars and taken decades of effort to ban phosphate detergents. The *Chesapeake Bay* is AMERICA's largest estuary and the four-year campaign's positive estuary results have raised high hopes of healing the Bay. It is nuts to interfere with an environmental campaign that is working in a cooperative manner.

The *Great Lakes* and the *Mississippi River* are also badly-polluted cancer cluster areas and it best behooves our nation to start caring about environmental concerns and human health.

(Source: February 4, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "The Pro-pollution attorneys general", The BALTIMORE SUN)

Warren Buffett's Empire

The world's second-largest chemical giant by sales, after GERMANY's BASF SE, is DOW CHEMICAL, based in *Midland*, MICHIGAN. DOW CHEMICAL revenues for 2013 were \$57 billion. DOW's agricultural chemicals sales were \$1.8 billion. Warren Buffett's BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INCORPORATED bought \$3 billion of preferred DOW stock in 2009. Mr. Buffett is behind DOW's long-term strategy for turning oil and natural gas into chemicals and plastics used in food packaging, agriculture, and electronics.

(Source: January 30, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Dow Chemical Upbeat on Sales" by Ben Lefebvre and Tess Stynes)

Get Ready

In 2013 more crude oil was spilled in AMERICA by trains than during the combined past 40-years. According to data from PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS SAFETY's administration, 1.15 million gallons of crude oil was spilled by rail cars, last year. And 1.5 million gallons of crude oil also spilled in CANADA in 2013. Altogether cargo that originated in NORTH DAKOTA killed 47 people.

On December 30, 2013, a 106-car BNSF Railway Company train carrying Bakken Shale Oil derailed 21 cars. The resultant explosions spilled 400,000 gallons of crude oil near Casselton, NORTH DAKOTA, causing about 1,400 people to evacuate. Damages are estimated at \$6.1 million according to the National Transportation Safety Board. You might not have noticed Lac-Megantic and Quebec Shell as culpable players in the oil shipment derailments and spills. Catastrophic train spills have already happened in Quebec, CANADA, and near Casselton, NORTH DAKOTA.

Ready or not, if a catastrophic train spill happens in OREGON or WASHINGTON, taxpayers will get stuck with the cleanup bill because the railroads have a loophole. Legal loopholes are unethical behavior. Oil trains go through rural cities, cross main streets, and pass through residential neighborhoods by schools and within 100 feet from homes. Trains should be rerouted around populated and sensitive areas because the burden is left with communities. The NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD claims the PACIFIC NORTHWEST is unready for risks posed by oil trains carrying potentially explosive crude from NORTH DAKOTA en route to port.

Meanwhile crude began flowing through the southern leg of TRANSCANADA CORPORATION's pipeline, connecting the storage hub of Cushing, OKLAHOMA, to refineries along the GULF COAST. The pipeline delivers 300,000 barrels of crude a day to the Houston, TEXAS, area, and is expected to ramp that up to 520,000 by year's end. The project differs from KEYSTONE's 1,179-mile northern leg, which would transport crude from CANADA to NEBRASKA, which environmentalists oppose.

(Source: January 14, 2014, "NORTH DAKOTA Crude Leak in Derailment totaled 400,000 Gallons" by Ben Kesling; January 21, DAILY TIDINGS; January 24, 2014, THE OREGONIAN, "NTSB: Taxpayers liable for oil-Train Spill Cleanup" by Rob Davis; January 27, 2014, "Pipeline Opens and Oil Prices Surge" by Brett Philbin)

Pop Quiz

Does your local utility have time of use charges that allow you to save money by using less electricity during peak hours?

Fair Use Notice: The *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletters are intended for educational and informational purposes only. Just in case there's any copywriter material, the use of which material may not have always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner, it is believed that the intention of these newsletters constitutes a "Fair Use" of any copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In Accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletters are distributed without profit to those who have an interest in using the included information for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material in any of the *Eco Community Dialogues* newsletters for purposes of your own that go beyond "Fair Use", you must obtain permission from the copyright owner. The information in the *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletters does not constitute legal or technical advice.

Nancy Nelson makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (Content) contained in the *Eco-Community Newsletters*. However, she makes no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in these newsletters are the opinions and views of the authors, and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Nancy Nelson shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to, or arising out of the use of the Content. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, selling, loan, licensing, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Access and use of these newsletters may be used only for research, teaching, and private study purposes.

This newsletter is not intended to provide medical advice on personal health conditions, nor to replace recommendations made by health professionals.